



# The Home Department

Conducted by Helen Watts Moore

## Opportunity

This I beheld, or dreamed it in a dream:  
There spread a cloud of dust along a plain,  
And underneath the cloud, or in it, raged  
A furious battle, and men yelled, and swords  
Shocked on sword and shield. A prince's banner  
Wavered, then staggered backward, hemmed by foes.  
A craven hung along the battle's edge  
And thought: "Had I a sword of keener steel—  
That blue blade that the king's son bears!—but this  
Blunt thing!—he snapped and flung it from his hand,  
And lowering, crept away and left the field.

Then came the king's son, wounded, sore breasted,  
And weaponless. He saw the broken sword-hilt  
Buried in the dry and trodden sand,  
And ran and snatched it, and with battle shout,  
Lifted afresh, he hewed the enemy down  
And saved a great cause that heroic day.

—Edward Rowland Sills.

The rain has ceased, and in my room  
The sunshine pours an airy flood;  
The church's steeple vane  
The ancient cross is bathed in blood.  
From out the dripping ivy leaves,  
Antiquely carven, gray and high,  
A dormer, facing westward, looks  
Upon the village, like an eye.  
And now it glimmers in the sun,  
A square of gold, a disc, a speck;  
And in the belfry sits a dove  
With purple ripples on her neck.

—T. B. Aldrich.

## Social Chats

One of the great mistakes which housekeepers make is that the covering up of defects in their department is in reality a process of beautifying. When one wants to be clean and fresh-looking about the house, one of the first things to think of is the paint pot and brush; and, indeed, nothing does freshen up furniture and wood-work more than paint and varnish. But if the work was given to a really conscientious painter, there would be "something doing" before the paint brush came into play. Before touching the furniture or wood-work the professional painter would begin removing the old coatings of paint and varnish, going down to the wood-work itself. Regular paint removers are to be had at all paint shops, and they are reliable; the merchant who sells you anything of the kind will willingly supplement directions which come on the cans, if you are in doubt about the use of it. If the wood-work or furniture is something which can be handled without damage in this way, there are old-fashioned "home" ways of removing it—such as caustic soda, lye, or soft-soap scourings; but this can be used readily only on plain surfaces. The pumice-stone treatment is safe and sure, but slow. It is a

**AN OLD AND WELL TRIED REMEDY**  
MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP for children teething should always be used for children while teething. It softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic and is the best remedy for diarrhoea. Twenty-five cents a bottle.

waste of time to paint or varnish over and over again until the coating of paint is so thick as to not only ruin the gloss, but allow the peeling off of the latest coat, or the blistering of it in places. Such over-doing will not hold gloss, and will be easier "scabbed" and scratched than ever before. You should have a clean foundation to work upon, and this can be had only by removing the old, hardened paint, and any painter will tell you how it may be done. If the coating is very hard, let the professional remove it for you. If you are not fond of hard work, and a continuous job of it, do not try to wax your floors. There are many good, serviceable floor stains and paints and varnishes, which will give much better satisfaction, and the work of caring for them will be greatly less than for a polished floor.

## A Rose Jar

"Oriental jars with saucers are not expensive, and they make beautiful rose jars. Take a peck of fresh, fragrant rose leaves and put them in an earthen jar, using a handful of salt well scattered through every three large handfuls of leaves. Only fragrant leaves should be taken, as it is for the perfume alone that the leaves are to be used. Stir them thoroughly twice a day for five days. Add three ounces of powdered alspice and one ounce of stick cinnamon. Stir every day for a week, then put them into the rose jar. Mix in an ounce of whole alspice, half a pound of dried lavender flowers, half an ounce of anise seed and two ounces of orris root. Stir thoroughly, and add a few drops of attar of roses, or any preferred essential oil. Open the jar at any time for half an hour, and a delightful, refreshing fragrance will pervade the room. The perfume will last several years, but it is well to add a little to the jar every year. The jar must be kept well closed at all times except when opened to sweeten the room."

## Shirt Waist Suits

Shirtwaist suits made of gingham or the new silk novelty cotton materials are both pretty and economical, requiring no trimming except of the material itself. The skirts are made somewhat shorter than the round-length skirts in heavier materials, being cut at least two inches from the ground, and should be made on gored models, to flare considerably below the knees. If they are cut by a perfectly plain gored skirt-pattern, add some trimming to give a full appearance at the foot, as a plain, unlined cotton skirt is most ungraceful and unbecoming unless it stands out well around the lower edge. If you don't want to use ruffles, have one or two plain set-on circular bands at the lower edge of the skirt; but these bands are pretty trimmed with narrow, straight set-on ruffles of the same material.

Another very pretty way to trim a gingham skirt is with a deep, gathered ruffle set on at the knee, put on without a heading—just joined to the dress with a narrow cord or a small bias band of the material. The shirtwaists for these suits should be made with small sleeves, with the fullness at the center-top, and they should be put into the arm's-eye with several rows of gathers and the gathers reinforced with a bias facing; this keeps the arm's-eye in good shape through

the necessary launderings of the gown, and it also fits the sleeve more firmly into the shirtwaist.—Ladies Home Journal.

## Gathered Skirts

Skirts made from wash goods are better made on gored skirt models. The new skirts are much trimmed with flounces, and the general effect is one of fluffiness and much fullness; the idea of fullness being given chiefly by the arrangement of the trimming. Summer materials, when made in the gored skirt style are, for the most part, gathered onto a waistband to give a full, flowing appearance to the skirt, at the same time concealing the long lines of the gores which are not always pretty in thin material, unless joined with insertion or beading, or otherwise trimmed. The placket, too, is easily concealed in a gathered skirt. In gathering skirts on to the waistband most of the fullness should be distributed toward the front and center-back; at the sides and over the hips there should not be so much fullness. The new skirts all give the idea of fullness in front and back with the sides comparatively plain.—Ladies Home Journal.

Many last year's dresses and suits may be remodeled by using material differing from the garment, provided always that the material used shall harmonize with the general color-scheme of the gown. For a bolero suit, the skirt may be made of one color and material and the bolero of another, trimmed with bands like the skirt. White summer dresses may be trimmed with bands of plain, delicate colored or flowered organdy, either in bands set on to simulate tucks and hem, or as set-on flounces, or by inserting it between lace insertion. Thin tulle and net laces are much used.

## Common Sense Essays

"At the high schools and colleges for the past month the students have been searching the libraries for subjects for essays and graduating theses. It does seem a pity to have this wanton waste of misapplied energy. Of all the graduating theses that will be handed down between now and the close of the various schools and colleges, only a small percentage will have any real value. They will be adapted, plagiarized and made to pass muster just because they had to be, and the harm done to a boy's or girl's moral sense in the questionable ways in which these essays and theses are prepared greatly overshadow the good gained in research and reading—which, by the way, is not always done by them, but by their ambitious, though mistaken parents or friends. If these graduates could be induced to select subjects that they know something about, and give graphic and practical presentations of them, a distinct gain would be made. 'How mother manages to get breakfast and do all the sewing for the household' would prove a thousand times more interesting than a learned paper on the 'Status of Woman Among the Greeks in the Age of Pericles,' copied from—nobody knows where."—Exchange.

The above came under my eye about the same time with a letter from the mother of a young miss who is about to close her studies at the high school, and who had assigned to her as a subject for an essay to be read at

the closing exercises a matter of which both herself and her mother were so ignorant that they wished me to write the essay for her—to be read, of course, as her own writing. They were so kind as to offer to pay me for the work. I could not lend myself to so great a fraud, even though I were familiar with the subject given—which I am not; and when I explained to the mother the harmfulness of such a course to her young daughter, and told her the girl should do the writing herself in order to receive the benefit therefrom, I find I grossly offended both of them, and—I got a stinging letter in return for my "selfish refusal" to help "the child."

## For the Toilet

To remove tan and freckles, nothing is better than a lotion composed of four ounces of witch hazel, four ounces of glycerine and the juice of two lemons. Apply to the face, neck and hands after washing, and at night.

Permanent freckles are akin to moth patches, and require both internal and external treatment. The internal treatment consists of something that will act on the liver and at the same time stimulate the circulation of the blood. For this purpose, olive oil, taken in teaspoonful doses before breakfast and at bed time, is recommended as being excellent. The local treatment ordered by some specialists consists of drawing them to the surface and gradually peeling them off, or bleaching them out. The freckle spot lies under the lower layer of the scarf-skin, of which there are four. The outer is no thicker than tissue paper, and it is this skin which is raised in a blister. Thus it will be readily seen why freckles are so difficult to remove, as the skin is stained through and through. Nearly all skin bleaches contain mercury (corrosive sublimate), which is an active mineral poison if taken internally, therefore the use of it is not recommended for careless hands.

Another whitener for the hands is composed of lemon juice, three ounces, white wine vinegar three ounces, white brandy one-half pint. Corn meal rubbed over the hands after washing is excellent. It should be used before wiping the hands.

For muddy skin, a good rule to observe is, when the tongue is coated, or there are indications of a clogged internal condition, to stop eating, fasting a day or two at a time, or with only light food once a day. Instead of eating, drink copiously of pure water between meals. Several quarts a day is none too much to flood out the impurities. A sallow or pimply skin is a lazy skin. Exercise should be taken to induce perspiration.

Use almond meal in place of soap for washing the hands, and the skin will not get dry and wrinkled; the soap takes out the natural oil.

## Some Cleaning Helps

For cleaning oil painted surfaces, take a piece of soft flannel and squeeze it out of warm water until it feels dry; next, dip it gently onto some very finely pulverized French chalk, rub the painted surface with the flannel, and the effect will be the removal of all dust, greasy matter and dirt. The surface is next washed with a clean sponge and clean water and dried with a piece of soft wash-leather. This method does not injure the paint like soap, and produces a very good result.

To clean finger-marks on doors—

## BETTER THAN SPANKING

Spanking does not cure children of bed wetting. If it did there would be few children that would do it. There is a constitutional cause for this. Mrs. M. Summers, Box 118, Notre Dame, Ind., will send her home treatment to any mother. She asks no money. Write her today if your children trouble you in this way. Don't blame the child. The chances are it can't help it.